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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, JANUARY 17, 2001

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

Ex Parte, In re: Investigation of CASE NO. PUC000003
the appropriate level of intrastate
access service prices

ORDER ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

On December 21, 2000, Central Telephone Company of Virginia ("Centel"), United Telephone - Southeast, Inc. ("United") (collectively, "Sprint"), and the Staff ("Staff") of the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") filed a Motion to Approve Settlement of Case ("Motion") in Case No. PUC000003 and set forth a proposed Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") regarding intrastate access services and prices for Sprint. A response to this Motion was filed by AT&T Communications of Virginia, Inc., on January 4, 2001.

On January 5, 2001, the Hearing Examiner assigned to Case No. PUC000003 entered a Certification of Ruling to the Commission recommending that the Commission establish a procedure for considering comments on the merits of the changes in the access rates set forth in said Agreement and any related issues thereto. A similar procedure was recommended, and adopted by us in Case No. PUC000242 for consideration of the

proper level of access charges for Verizon Virginia Inc. and Case No. PUC000265 for consideration of the proper level of access charges for Verizon South Inc. There is no need to establish a separate case number for our consideration of the proper level of access charges for the Sprint companies, as these are the only issues remaining in Case No. PUC000003.

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of the Hearing Examiner's recommendations and the comment filed relative to the Motion, is of the opinion and finds that it is in the public interest to consider the Motion and Settlement and the changes to intrastate access service prices proposed therein, and to accept all cost studies and documents relative to this matter previously filed; to provide an opportunity for interested parties to submit comments or request hearing and for Sprint and the Staff to respond to such comments; and, if requested, to provide an opportunity for the Commission to hear oral argument and accept evidence.

Any interested party may file written comments and/or requests for hearing or argument on the proposed Agreement by February 1, 2001. We ask the parties to address, at a minimum, the following issues: (a) whether the Agreement should be approved, with support for the party's position; or (b) whether the Agreement should be modified, amended, or rejected and, if so, how and why. Sprint, the Staff, and any party may file a

reply to any comments or requests filed on February 1, 2001, and should do so on or before February 15, 2001. If a request for hearing or argument is filed, a hearing date of March 20, 2001, will be reserved to receive evidence and oral argument on the Agreement and any proposed modifications thereto. We will receive evidence and entertain cross examination or argument only on issues that are proposed to be resolved by the Agreement.

Any other party that wishes to participate at hearing may do so if the party provides notice of such intent, with copies being provided to all other parties and Staff, by February 28, 2001. Such notice shall provide a brief description of the issues the party intends to address and identify any witnesses who may be presented. Each proposed witness's testimony shall be prefiled on or before March 8, 2001.

Unless there is a valid objection, it is the Commission's current intention to admit to record in the new docket all comments, the cost studies, and other pertinent documents previously filed and admitted to record in Case No. PUC000003 that relate specifically to the Agreement and that the Commission feels are necessary for a complete and thorough consideration of this matter.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) All cost studies and documents determined by the Commission to be relative to this matter and previously filed and admitted to record in Case No. PUC000003 shall be accepted for consideration.

(2) Written comments and/or requests for hearing or argument on the proposed Settlement Agreement shall be due by February 1, 2001, in the manner set forth above. Copies of such comments and/or testimony and requests for hearing shall be served on the Staff and all parties contained on the service list in Case No. PUC000003.

(3) Replies to any comments or requests for hearing or argument filed on February 1, 2001, shall be filed by February 15, 2001. Copies of such replies shall be served on the Staff and all parties contained on the service list in Case No. PUC000003.

(4) If requested, a hearing shall be held March 20, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. in a Commission Courtroom, Tyler Building, Second Floor, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia. At that time the Commission will receive evidence and oral argument on the Settlement Agreement and any proposed modifications thereto. The Commission will receive evidence and entertain cross examination only on issues that are proposed to be resolved by the Agreement.

(5) Any other party that wishes to participate at such requested hearing shall file notice of such intent and serve a copy on the parties and Staff by February 28, 2001. Such notice shall provide a brief description of the issues the party intends to address and the identity of any witnesses that will be presented at the hearing. Testimony of all witnesses to be presented, including witnesses of Sprint and Staff, shall be filed by March 8, 2001.